

December 17, 2020

Dear Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on ARC 5336C, "Home Health Agency services-ordering and signing treatment plan".

The Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) is Iowa's largest nonprofit organization representing over 800 providers of elderly and disabled services through home health agencies, assisted living programs, and nursing facilities.

IHCA and its members are writing to express support of ARC 5336C, as proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code chapter 249A, to allow physician assistants (PA), nurse practitioners (NP) and clinical nurse specialists (CNS) to order and sign a treatment plan for home health agency services provided to Iowa Medicaid members.

Allowing these professionals to order and sign treatment plans for home health agencies, especially in rural Iowa, provides a much-needed resolution to a lack of physicians in many locations around the state. Many Iowans receive primary care through NP/PA/CNS professionals. Making this change allows providers who may care for and know the patients, the ability to order their services while also improving access to the benefits of home health care. This change aligns the Iowa Medicaid program with recent changes to Medicare which also allows NP/PA/CNS to sign treatment plans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merea Bentrutt".

Merea Bentrutt  
SVP, Government Relations  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Iowa Health Care Association  
1775 90<sup>th</sup> St., West Des Moines, IA 50266-1563  
515-978-2204 (w) | 800-422-3106